Indiana University’s Office of International Programs (OIP) has received several major grant awards totaling nearly $3.54 million. The grants were awarded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United States Information Agency (USIA). With the addition of $1.78 million in in-kind contributions from IU and several other participating universities and organizations for a total of $5.3 million, these grants will fund international project activity over the next three years.

The competition for several of these grants was intense, especially for the projects in Nepal and Kyrgyzstan, and the FFA development education grant, with 8 to 10 proposals submitted from nationally recognized organizations for each award. The three grants awarded for projects in Central Asia and the Transcaucasus were due in no small part to the reputation and direct involvement of the Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center, its director, William Fierman, and its assistant director, Scott Feickert. Several of the grants involve collaboration between units within IU as well as with other universities and organizations in Indiana and help to project the State of Indiana’s training resources more effectively to a diverse international audience.

In announcing the awards, OIP Dean Patrick O’Meara said, “It has been a very successful grant year for IU, thus far. The recently awarded grants demonstrate the quality of IU’s international studies and programs and will enable us to dramatically increase the level of international exchange activity that we are able to fund. Moreover,” he added, “these grants extend IU’s international activities into new regions—especially into Central Asia.” These grants include the following projects:

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING PROJECT, KYRGYZSTAN

This is the largest single grant, $1.9 million, funded by the USIA for a training program with the American University of Kyrgyzstan (AUK). The program was established in 1993 with partial U.S. federal support committed when Vice President Al Gore made a visit to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan’s capital. Most of the classes at the university are conducted in English. With substantial support from the USIA and the Soros Foundation, the privately run university has quickly become a model in Central Asia for academic integrity, innovative programs, and an American-style curriculum adapted to Central Asia’s needs. Over the next three years, AUK’s projected 1999-2000 enrollment of more than 700 students is expected to grow to more than 1,000 highly selected students from Kyrgyzstan and surrounding countries. “It is USIA’s highest profile education project in Central Asia,” O’Meara said.

IU is the lead institution for this project with the Indiana Consortium for International Programs (ICIP). Seven campuses in Indiana will be directly involved: IU Bloomington, DePauw University, IUPUI, Ball State University, IU Southeast, Valparaiso University, and the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. The project’s goal is to provide 10 Kyrgyz faculty with master’s degree training in the social sciences and humanities, and 24 AUK faculty and administrators with semester-long internships and research programs at the seven participating campuses. Twenty-five faculty from around the U.S. and 13 administrators from Indiana will go to Kyrgyzstan for teaching and curriculum development assignments ranging from four weeks to four months in length. The fields covered by the grant include American studies (history and literature), economics, journalism and communications, political science and international relations, sociology, psychology, and general education. The grant also provides funds for the development of AUK’s library and technical facilities. The project will be managed by IU’s Center for International Education and Development Assistance (CIEDA) in association with IU’s Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center (IAUNRC).

FFA DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION PROJECT

This major grant of $287,114 from USAID will fund a development education project for U.S. high school students. The project will join IU and Purdue Universities with the National Future Farmers of America Organization (FFA), based in Indianapolis. The goal of the project will be to develop Web- and CD-ROM-based sets of case studies on how U.S. foreign assistance abroad has an impact on communities in the United States.
The project will be managed by the IU International Resource Center (IUIRC). Wisdom Tools, Inc., a for-profit, technology-based training company headed by IU School of Education faculty member Marty Siegel, will develop the CD-ROM materials. IU and Purdue will provide content for the case studies. The case studies will then be introduced by the National FFA Organization and the National Council for Agricultural Education to more than 3,000 high school teachers and 50,000 high school students across the United States.

USIA UNIVERSITY LINKAGE IN KAZAKHSTAN

The IU School of Law received notice recently of a USIA University Linkages grant of $239,974 for collaboration with the Higher Law School at Adilet in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Under this grant, the law school will assist its Kazakh counterpart in the development of law curriculum. Twelve Kazakhstani law faculty will spend various periods of time in residence at IU Bloomington and 20 IU law faculty will travel there for teaching and consulting. Joseph Hoffmann, IU Law School faculty member, will be the project director.

In addition to these grants, CIEDA has received funding for the following projects:

BOSNIA/HERZEGOVINA UNDERGRADUATE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Russian and East European Institute and the IU Office of International Services received a one-year grant of $61,912 from USIA to host two exchange students for a nine-month, non-degree program. Its purpose is to educate Bosnian students in areas—such as journalism and economics—that are useful to the reconstruction of their state and society. Following their course of study, the students will be placed in 4- to 12-week internships over the summer. As part of its participation, REEl will host a regional gathering to include nine other program participants in residence at other U.S. universities.

AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM WITH BAKU STATE UNIVERSITY, AZERBAIJAN

This three-year USIA grant of $300,000 will establish an American Studies Program at Baku State University in Azerbaijan and initiate an Azerbaijan Studies Program at IU Bloomington. Eighteen participants from IUB, IUPUI, and Valparaiso University, and 12 participants from Baku State will take part in faculty exchanges. The fields covered by the exchange include applied linguistics, business, criminal justice, economics, education, gender studies, history, international relations, literature, mass media, political science, and popular culture. The project will be managed jointly by CIEDA and IAUNRC.

AFRICAN REGIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

This USIA grant of $250,000 will bring 38 mid-career professionals from 21 western and southern African countries to the United States for six-week internships in a variety of fields including education, non-governmental organizations, public administration, and business and international trade. Participants will be placed in internships through cooperating organizations in more than a dozen cities across the United States.

STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR POLISH UNIVERSITIES

This USIA grant of $103,496 is conducted in association with IU Bloomington's Polish Studies Center. The project involves administrators from IUB, IUPUI, Ball State University, and DePaul University (Chicago) who will work with their counterparts at 13 major Polish universities.

HUMAN DIMENSIONS OF NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT, NEPAL

This USAID project, with a grant award of $100,000, is conducted in association with the IU Center for the Study of Institutions, Population, and Environmental Change (CIPEC). The project will assist Kathmandu University in establishing a master's degree program in natural resources management. IU's Workshop on Political Theory and Policy Analysis will manage the project.

BURMESE REFUGEE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

With a three-year USIA grant of $299,990, IU will prepare five Burmese refugee students from India for either undergraduate or graduate academic programs at IU and other universities. The grant provides for one year of pre-academic language training, university placement, and two years of financial support for university coursework. The program begins in July of 2000.

---Charles Reafsnyder
International Research and Development, CIEDA